

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace, without prejudice, all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-7. (Canceled).

8. (Currently Amended) A lane assist system for a motor vehicle, comprising:
a surround sensor device, which is mounted on the vehicle, for detecting a lane of the vehicle; and

a device for alerting a driver of the vehicle in the event that the vehicle at least one of (a) threatens to depart the lane and (b) actually departs the lane, the device being adapted to cause a vibration, noticeable to the driver, in a driver seat on a side of a seating surface on which a lane departure at least one of (a) threatens and (b) is taking place, the vibration being produced by a vibration mat underneath the seating surface of the driver seat, the vibration mat being adapted to be activated separately for the left and right side;

wherein:

the surround sensor device includes a sensor for detecting vehicles approaching from a rear;

if it is detected, during a change to a new lane, that a vehicle is rapidly approaching from the rear on the new lane, the lane assist system outputs a warning;

the surround sensor device includes a sensor for detecting a roadway edge; and
in the event that the vehicle at least one of (a) threatens to cross the roadway edge and (b) actually crosses the roadway edge, the lane assist system is configured to automatically intervene in a steering system of the vehicle.

9. (Currently Amended) The lane assist system according to claim 8, wherein the device outputs control signals for the vibration mat ~~a vibration device which cause the vibration in the driver seat.~~

10. (Canceled).

11. (Currently Amended) The lane assist system according to claim 9, wherein the vibration mat ~~device~~ is integrated into the driver seat in such a way that the vibration is noticeable on the seating surface of the seat.

12. (Previously Presented) The lane assist system according to claim 8, further comprising a secondary warning device for outputting at least one of a visual and an acoustic warning signal.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a lane assist system for a motor vehicle, the method comprising:

detecting whether a vehicle is rapidly approaching from a rear;

generating a warning for a driver of the vehicle if it is detected, during a change to a new lane, that a vehicle is rapidly approaching from the rear on the new lane, wherein generating the warning includes generating a vibration, noticeable to the driver, in a driver seat on a side of a seating surface corresponding to a direction of the change to the new lane, the vibration being produced by a vibration mat underneath the seating surface of the driver seat, the vibration mat being adapted to be activated separately for the left and right side;

detecting a roadway edge; and

intervening automatically in a steering system of the vehicle in the event that the vehicle at least one of (a) threatens to cross the roadway edge and (b) actually crosses the roadway edge.

15. (Previously Presented) The lane assist system according to claim 8, wherein the device for alerting the driver causes a vibration, on a side of the seating surface corresponding to a direction of the change to the new lane, as the warning.

16. (Currently Amended) A lane assist system for a motor vehicle, comprising:

a surroundings surround sensor device, ~~which is mounted on the vehicle and adapted~~ for sensing detecting a lane of the vehicle; and

a ~~first alerting~~ device adapted for:

~~alerting warning~~ a driver of the vehicle ~~when in the event that~~ the vehicle at least one of (a) threatens to depart the lane and (b) is departing actually departs the lane, the ~~warning first alerting device~~ being performed by generating adapted to cause a vibration, noticeable to the driver, in a driver seat on a side of a seating surface at ~~[[on]]~~ which the a lane departure at least one of (a) threatens to take place or and (b) is taking place; and

outputting at least one of an audible warning signal and a second alerting device adapted to output a visual warning signal conditional upon a determination that the driver has not reacted to the vibration has been ignored and the vehicle continues to depart the lane or threaten to depart the lane.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a lane assist system for a motor vehicle, the method comprising:

detecting a lane of the vehicle;

determining whether the vehicle threatens to dangerously depart the lane;

generating a warning for a driver of the vehicle when the vehicle at least one of (a) threatens to depart the lane and (b) actually departs the lane, wherein generating the warning includes generating a vibration, noticeable to the driver, in a driver seat on a side of a seating surface on which a lane departure at least one of (a) threatens and (b) actually takes place, the vibration being produced by a vibration mat underneath the seating surface of the driver seat, the vibration mat being adapted to be activated separately for the left and right side; and

conditional upon a determination that the vibration has been ignored, outputting a visual warning signal.

18. (Currently Amended) The lane assist system according to claim 16, wherein the ~~first alerting~~ device is adapted to output an acoustic signal simultaneously with the vibration.